REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action of May 4, 2009 in which claims 1-6, 8-11, 13-16 and 18-20 were rejected. With this paper, claims 1-6, 8-11, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are amended, claims 14 and 20 are canceled and none are added. The application now includes claims 1-6, 8-11, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19.

Informalities

The specification and the claims are objected to due to various informalities. With this paper, the specification and the claims are amended in view of the Office's comments. Claims 15 and 16 are now independent claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 18, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements.

With this paper, claims 18 and 19 are amended as shown. Claim 20 is canceled. It is believed that amendment has overcome the rejection. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, 13-16 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over De Beer (US Publication 2003/0165227, De Beer hereinafter) in view of Samarasinghe (US Patent 7,180,912 B1, Samarasinghe hereinafter).

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over De Beer in view of Samarasinghe as applied to claim 3, and further in view of Tomiyori (US Patent 5,305,372).

In the rejected claims, claims 1, 9, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are independent.

De Beer describes a routing procedure for a telephone call, where a mobile telephone 20 sends a request message to a control center 7 after receiving an input of a destination phone number. The control center replays with a response. The response

includes routing data for the desired call, and the call is set-up using a modified phone-number based on the routing data.

The similarity between the present invention and De Beer is that both disclose sending a request containing at least one telephone number (i.e. destination number) (see Fig. 5 of De Beer) and receiving a response containing information related to the destination number (see Fig. 6 of De Beer). However, as the Office now acknowledged, in De Beer, the information included in the response does not include an identification of the network operator providing services to the destination number.

Samarasinghe, at cited locations, teaches a communication device initiating a call by dialing a number for the destination address (i.e. first communication device initiates a first INVITE message with a Called Party Number in an E.164 format and other information, such as: **INVITE sip:+732.420.4600@att.com; user=phone SIP/2.0**) (col. 9, lines 17-26). The first INVITE message is forwarded to the Call Control Element (CCE) 24. The CCE generates a second INVITE message comprising provisional customer data, such as the Charge Number, LATA, Charge Party Station Type, Carrier information and other various information provided by the caller operating at the first communication device (col. 9, lines 42-49).

Thus, it appears that in Samarasinghe, network operator identification (such as @att.com) is associated with a destination telephone number (such as 732.420.4699) in a message sent from a communication device. By reading the cited passages further, it becomes unambiguously clear that in Samarasinghe, the so-called network operator identification is provided by the communication device to the network system when the device initiates a call. This is in contrast to the principle of the present invention, in which the communication terminal initially does not know the identity of the service provider associated with a destination telephone number, and it inquires the serving network entity to find out the identity of the provider associated with the telephone number.

Therefore, an assumed combination of De Beer and Samarasinghe is not possible to result in a network entity providing service provider information associated with a telephone number to a communication terminal upon a request from the communication terminal. Besides, Samarasinghe never teaches that the information included in a response

including an identification of a network operator providing services to a destination number, because there is no such response transmitted from the network entity to the communication terminal.

Based on the above, all independent claims reciting the feature of "receiving/providing a response from said network serving entity, said response comprising network information identifying one or more network operators providing services to said one or more telephone numbers" are patentable. Dependent claims 2-4, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 are also patentable at least due to their dependency to patentable independent claims.

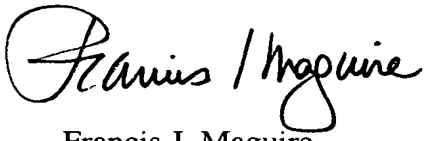
In addition, claim 5 depends from claim 3, which depends from claim 1. Therefore, claim 5 is patentable at least due to its dependency to a patentable main claim.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests the above rejections under 35 USC §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the remaining claims of the application are allowable, and their passage to issue is earnestly solicited. Applicant's attorney urges the examiner to call to discuss the present response, if anything in the present response is unclear or unpersuasive.

Respectfully submitted,



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